(b) whether it is a fact that the security in India was visible and had become a status symbol though Government in fact had a greater responsibility in providing security to the common man;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more politicians and some officials are being given more security on the basis of the positions.they held; and

(d) if so, what corrective measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The Home Minister did not visit Israel recently.

(b) These issues have been addressed in the New Policy on the Security of Individuals announced by the Government on 7.2.2000.

(c) and (d) Government have a duty to see that persons in public life, who invite the wrath of militants or terrorists, are given due protection. The list of protectees is, therefore, periodically reviewed. Security is increased, reduced or withdrawn, depending upon the latest threat perception.

Conditions of soldiers at Kutch

†4759. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has deeply studied the conditions of the soldiers posted at borders during his meeting with them in the border district of Kutch;

(b) if so, the details of assessment made by him;

(c) whether he has formulated any scheme to remove their difficulties faced by them due to lack of facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a)to(e) The working and living conditions of our troops posted in the Rann of Kutch are very difficult owing to harsh climate and presence of health hazards like saline atmosphere and water, poisonous reptiles, etc. The Government is making every effort to remove their difficulties.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Welfare of BSF personnel deployed in the Rann of Kutch is attended to, on priority, by the Unit Commandant, Sector DIG and other senior officers by holding frequent "sainik sammellans" and periodical interactions. BOPs are equipped with recreational facilities like television, newspapers, periodicals and indoor/outdoor sports equipment. Rations and drinking water are provided to them well in time through the Unit administration.

In addition to the above, a Nodal Officer is available at Unit, Sector and Frontier levels to sort-out the personnel grievances/problems of the troops. Each Company has transport for emergency evacuation of patients. In adverse conditions and emergency, evacuation by the Air Force is also arranged. For specialised treatment, troops are referred to Civil Hospitals.

Atrocities against women in rural areas

†4760. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents related to beating of women alongwith stripping and parading them even on petty matters have become common these days in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the social and cultural reasons behind these incidents; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to check these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a)to(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits

4761. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total population of Kashmiri pandits has migrated from the terrorism affected Kashmir valley;

(b) if so, the details of the migration of the community and the rehabilitation programme for them indifferent parts of the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.